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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/447,718	11/23/1999	HIDETO KOHTANI	35.G2007D1	4167

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EXAMINER	
EBRAHIMI DEHKORDY, SAEID	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2626	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/447,718	KOHTANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Saeid Ebrahimi-dehKordy	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 July 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *37-78* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *46-51,61-72 and 75-78* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *37-45,52-60 and 73-74* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 37-78 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 37-45,52-60 and 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. patent 5,764,866) in view of Kodama (U.S. patent 5,241,347)

Regarding claim 37 and 52 Maniwa discloses: An image processing apparatus (please note Fig.1 item #4) connectable to an external device (Fig.1 item # 3) that can transmit printing data and to an original-reading device (Fig.1, item 14) which generates reproduction image data by reading an original image (please note Fig.1, column 7 lines 34-41) said image processing apparatus employing an image forming device (Fig.1 item 15 the print engine) which forms an image on a sheet (please note column 7 lines 6-12) said image processing apparatus comprising: an engine controller for controlling the image forming device based on image data (please note Fig.1 items 15 and 19 the print engine and controller respectively, column 6 lines 43-54) a printer controller for forming print image data from the printing data transferred from the external apparatus and transmitting the print image data to said engine controller (please note Fig.1 item 20 where the controller controls the printing unit, column 8 lines 9-14) a reader controller

for receiving the reproduction image data generated by the original-reading device and for transmitting the reproduction image data to said engine controller (please note Fig.1 items 21 and 20, column 7 lines 64-67 and column 8 lines 1-16) However Maniwa does not disclose: transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device to at least one of said printer controller and said reader controller in accordance with a content of the state signal. On the other hand Kodama discloses: transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device to at least one of said printer controller and said reader controller in accordance with a content of the state signal (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201) Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Maniwa's invention according to the teaching of Kodama, where Kodama in the same field of endeavor teaches the way the signals have sent through the system to engine controller and printer controller for the purpose of checking the status of the devices.

Regarding claim 38 Kodama discloses: The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said transmitting means selectively transmits the state signal to said printer controller or said reader controller also in accordance with which of the reproduction image data and the print image data is being transmitted to said engine controller (please note Fig.2c column 9 lines 30-42).

Regarding claim 39 Kodama discloses: The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the condition indicated by the state signal [indicates that there] is a change in a

state of the image forming device (please note column Fig,2c column 9 lines 30-38 where the sensors are indicating changes in the condition of the printer).

Regarding claim 40,43,54 and 56 Maniwa discloses: A controller for an image forming apparatus (Fig.1 item 4) connectable to an external apparatus (please note Fig.1 item 3) and to an original-reading device (please note Fig.1 item 14) which outputs reproduction image data formed by reading an original image (please note Fig.1, column 5 lines 47-56) the image forming apparatus employing an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet (please note column 7 lines 34-40) a printer controller which outputs print image data formed from printing data transferred from the external apparatus (please note column 8 lines 6-12) and an engine controller which controls the image forming device based on the reproduction image data output by the original-reading device and the print image data output by the printer controller (please note Fig.1 column 7 lines 61-67 and column 8 lines 1-17) said controller comprising: first reception means (please note Fig.1 item 21) for receiving the reproduction image data output by the original-reading device (please note column 7 lines 63-67) second reception means (Fig.1 item 24) for receiving the print image data output by the printer controller (please note Fig.1 items 21 and 24 where the image data received by the device 21 is transmitted to the receiving device memory 24, column 7 lines 64-67 and column 8 line 1) However Maniwa does not disclose: that the outputs a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device selection means for selecting one of the reproduction image data received by said first reception means and the print image data received by said second reception means and for transmitting the selected image

data to the engine controller which controls the image forming device based on the selected image data and transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device to at least one of a processor, which controls the original-reading device and the printer controller, in accordance with a content of the state signal. On the other hand Kodama discloses: that the outputs a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201) selection means for selecting one of the reproduction image data received by said first reception means and the print image data received by said second reception means (please note column 6 lines 3-11) and for transmitting the selected image data to the engine controller which controls the image forming device based on the selected image data (please note Fig.2a column 7 lines 57-65) and transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a condition of the image forming device to at least one of a processor, which controls the original-reading device and the printer controller, in accordance with a content of the state signal (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Maniwa's invention according to the teaching of Kodama, where Kodama in the same field of endeavor teaches the way the signals have sent through the system to engine controller and printer controller for the purpose of checking the status of the devices.

Regarding claim 41 Kodama discloses: The controller according to claim

40, wherein said transmitting means selectively transmits the state signal to the processor or the printer controller also in accordance with a source of the selected image data that is transmitted by said selection means to the engine controller (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202).

Regarding claim 42 Kodama discloses: The controller according to claim 40, wherein the condition indicated by the state signal [indicates that there] is a change in a state of the image forming device (please note Fig,2c column 9 lines 30-42).

Regarding claim 44 Kodama discloses: The method according to claim 43, wherein the state signal is selectively transmitted to the processor or the printer controller in accordance also with which of the reproduction image data and the print image data is transmitted in said selecting step to the engine controller (please note column Fig,2c column 9 lines 30-38 where the sensors are indicating changes in the condition of the printer).

Regarding claim 45 Kodama discloses: The method according to claim 43, wherein the condition indicated by the state signal is a change in a state of the image forming device (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202)

Regarding claim 53 Maniwa discloses: The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein when there is a request to transmit the reproduction image data from the original-reading device to said engine controller while the print image data from said printer controller is being transmitted to said engine controller said transmitting means

interrupts transmission of the data request signal to said printer controller and transmits the data request signal to said reader controller (please note column 8 lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 55 Maniwa discloses: The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when there is a request to transmit the reproduction image data from the original-reading device to the engine controller while the print image data from the printer controller is being transmitted to the engine controller said transmitting means interrupts transmission of the data request signal to the printer controller and transmits the data request signal to the original-reading device (please note column 6 lines 21-60).

Regarding claim 57 Maniwa discloses: The method according to claim 56, wherein when there is a request to transmit the reproduction image data from the original-reading device to the engine controller while the print image data from the printer controller is being transmitted to the engine controller said transmitting step comprises interrupting transmission of the data request signal to the printer controller and transmitting the data request signal to the original-reading device (please note column 7 lines 14-67 and column 8 lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 58 and 73 Maniwa An image processing apparatus Fig.1 item 4) usable with an external device (Fig.1 item 3 the computer) that can transmit printing data (please note Fig.1 column 7 lines 25-42) said image processing apparatus comprising: an original-reading device (Fig.1 item 14) which reads an original image and outputs reproduction image data based on the read original image (please note column 6 lines 39-60) a printer (please note Fig.1 item 15, column 6 lines 46-48) an

engine controller (Fig.1 item 19 which controls the print engine) connected to said printer (please note column 6 lines 43-60) controlling said printer based on received image data (please note column 6, lines 49-58) a reader controller connected to said original reading device and said engine controller (pleaser note Fig.1 item 20 column 8 lines 6-16) said reader controller receiving the reproduction image data output by said original-reading device (please note Fig.1 column 7 lines 64-67 and column 8 lines 1-15 as scanner or reader controller 20 receives the scanned image through the device 21 and stores it on the memory 24) transmitting the reproduction image data to said engine controller (please note column 8 lines 1-15); and a printer controller (please note Fig.1, item 19) connected to said reader controller (Fig.1, item 14) and connectable to the external device (please note column 8 lines 6-34) said printer controller receiving the printing data transmitted from the external apparatus forming print image data from the printing data and transmitting the print image data to said engine controller via said reader controller (please note column 7 lines 47-67 and column 8 lines 1-17).

However Maniwa does not disclose: outputting a first state signal indicating a condition of said printer; and receiving the first state signal output by said engine controller; said reader controller selectively transmitting depending upon a content of the received state signal, a second state signal indicating the condition of said image forming device to said printer controller On the other hand Kodama discloses: outputting a first state signal indicating a condition of said printer (please note column Fig,2c column 9 lines 30-38 where the sensors are indicating changes in the condition of the printer) and receiving the first state signal output by said engine controller said reader controller

selectively transmitting depending upon a content of the received state signal, a second state signal indicating the condition of said image forming device to said printer controller (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202).
Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Maniwa's invention according to the teaching of Kodama, where Kodama in the same field of endeavor teaches the way the signals have sent through the system to engine controller and printer controller for the purpose of checking the status of the devices.

Regarding claim 59 Kodama discloses: The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein whether said reader controller transmits the second state signal to said printer controller also depends upon which of the reproduction image data and the print image data is being transmitted to said engine controller (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202)

Regarding claim 60 Kodama discloses: The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the condition indicated by the state signals is a change in a state of the image forming device (please note column Fig,2c column 9 lines 30-38 where the sensors are indicating changes in the condition of the printer).

Regarding claim 74 Kodama discloses: The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein when there is a request to transmit the reproduction image data from said original-reading device to said engine controller while the print image data from said

printer controller is being transmitted to said engine controller said reader controller interrupts transmission of the data transmission synchronization signal to said printer controller and utilizes the data transmission synchronization signal to control said original reading device (please note Fig.2C, where the sensors 44,60,204 and 203 are sending signals to the printer controller 201and engine controller 202)

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 46-51, 61-72 and 75-78 are allowed.

The prior art of record specifically Maniwa (U.S. patent 5,764,866) fails to disclose some of the features of the claim invention such as holding means for holding the command if the command is transmitted form said printer controller while said reader controller is transmitting the reproduction image data to said engine controller, and for transmitting the held command to said engine controller after said reader controller completes transmitting the reproduction image data to said engine controller.

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy* whose telephone number is (703) 306-3487.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams, can be reached at (703) 305-4863.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, or (703) 308-9052 (for ***formal*** communications; please mark
"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

Or:

(703) 306-5406 (for ***informal*** or ***draft*** communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2626
November 11, 2004

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
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